



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APG to Hold Compatible Use Buffer Ceremony**

### **ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. –**

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD. – The U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) will hold a ceremony at ATC's Churchville Test Area (CTA) on Wednesday, March 21 at 10 a.m. to commemorate the joint efforts of the Department of the Army, Harford County Government, Harford Land Trust and the Hopkins Family Land Owners to conserve agricultural land and open space in Harford County.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program was created to address incompatible land use and achieve conservation efforts. ACUBs establish a buffer area around Army installations to limit the effects of incompatible land use and maximize land inside the installation that can be used to support the installation's mission. An ACUB allows the installation to work with partners to encumber land to protect habitat and training without acquiring any new land for Army ownership. These partnerships are unique to Department of Defense environmental resource management and include external stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, land trusts, the conservation community, state and local governments, and commercial and residential growth interests.

The agreement between the Department of the Army, Harford County Government, Harford Land Trust and the Hopkins Family Land Owners will protect 163 acres of land adjacent to CTA. Purchased and developed in 1942, CTA is the only maintained hilly off-road test course operated by the U.S. Army. CTA is used to test the endurance and reliability of both tracked and wheeled vehicles. For the past 65 years, the steep natural grades and tight turns have taxed the chassis, suspensions, engines and drivelines of every vehicle fielded to the U.S. Army, from the M4 Sherman and M26 Pershing tanks of the 1940s to the Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles or "Humvees" of today's Army.

Guest speakers at the ceremony will include Mr. David Craig, Harford County Executive; Mr. Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense For Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health; Col John Wright, APG Commander; Col John Rooney, ATC Commander; and Mr. Harry Webster, President, Harford Land Trust Board of Directors.

Due to security restrictions, attendance is by invitation only. If you would like additional information, or would like to arrange media coverage of the ceremony, please contact the Aberdeen Proving Ground Public Affairs Office at 410-278-1147 by March 15, 2007.

